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NCEA 30 Day Outlook 10-25-2017.docx

**National Center for Environmental Assessment
Weekly Report for October 25th, 2017**

Notables listed below and 30-day Outlook attached.

HOT TOPICS

Congressional Briefing. On October 25th, SABSO, NCEA, OAQPS, and OCIR will participate in a Congressional staff briefing in response to the letter to the Administrator from Rep. Smith and Rep. Biggs of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (CSST), in which they expressed concern about the integrity of the scientific data underpinning the 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and SAB committee membership.

Meeting with Denka Performance Elastomers. On October 30th, John Vandenberg and Kris Thayer will accompany Richard Yamada in a 'listening session' with representatives of Denka Corporation to hear their perspectives and concerns with the Request for Correction (RfC) for chloroprene. Four related matters:

- A community meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 26th, in LaPlace, LA. EPA is not planning to participate in that meeting;
- Letter from the representatives of the community to the Administrator has come in as a controlled correspondence, assigned to NCEA for response;
- NCEA with OCIR is preparing for a Congressional staff briefing in response to a second (ozone, above was first) letter from Rep. Smith and Rep. Biggs of CSST focused on the RfC process. The briefing request was accompanied by a substantial document request, which NCEA is also managing with OEI and OCIR; and,

- Another Denka-related letter arrived today urging EPA to consider the chloroprene RfC. This letter was signed by Louisiana delegates, Senators Cassidy and Kennedy, and Congressman Graves and Higgins.

WITHIN EPA

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Region 3 -- Assistance with Remedial Investigation Report. Malcolm Field was asked by Region 3 to review and provide his expert assessment and comments on the Remedial Investigation (RI) Report (Part 1) of the Central Chemical Superfund Site submitted by the Probable Responsible Parties (PRPs). A preliminary review of the RI suggests that the PRPs are undertaking a concerted effort to avoid accepting any responsibilities for the site groundwater contamination. Dr. Field has found that the current version of the RI: (1) suggests a groundwater-flow regime that ignores the site terrane (karstic); (2) discounts all findings of the site groundwater-tracer study conducted by Dr. Field; and (3) attempts to refute all aspects of NCEA's IRIS assessment of hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH) toxicology. This latter item may necessitate a formal review and response by IRIS experts.

OLEM and the OHHRRAF Toxicity Workgroup Support. On October 25th, the leaders of the Superfund Technical Support Center were invited to join scientists in OLEM and the OHHRRAF Toxicity Workgroup to discuss options for dealing with uncertainty factors in the OLEM-NCCT RapidTox chemical dashboard when attempting to derive RfVs.

Region 5 - PBPK Modeling. On November 1st, Paul Schlosser and Dustin Kapraun will make a presentation entitled "Physiologically-based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) Models in Risk Assessment: Uses, Strengths, and Weaknesses" at the State/Region 5 USEPA Air Toxics Risk Assessment Meeting. In this talk, fundamental concepts of PBPK modeling, implementation, and simulation will be presented, and then specific issues surrounding their application in the chemical risk assessment arena will be discussed.

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PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

Joint EFSA/EBTC Scientific Colloquium. On October 25 – 26th, Kris Thayer will present at the "Joint EFSA/EBTC Scientific Colloquium on Evidence Integration in Risk Assessment: The Science of Combining Apples and Oranges" in Lisbon, Portugal.

PRODUCTS AND PUBLICATIONS

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“Risk characterization of hospitalizations for mental illness and/or behavioral disorders with concurrent heat-related illness,”. Co-authors Janet Gamble and Michael Schmeltz (former ASPPH Fellow at EPA) have published a paper in PLOS ONE entitled: “Risk characterization of hospitalizations for mental illness and/or behavioral disorders with concurrent heat-related illness,”. This paper seeks to identify and characterize individual and environmental risk factors associated with MBD hospitalizations with a concurrent HRI diagnosis. The paper can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0186509>.

Substratum Associated Microbiota. Sylvia Lee (NCEA EARCG) co-authored a survey of literature on substratum-associated microbiota from 2016, which includes highlights of research findings associated with algae, cyanobacteria, and bacteria from a variety of aquatic environments, but primarily freshwaters. Dr. Lee contributed sections on nutrients, biomonitoring and bioassessment, and environmental pollutants. The article was published in the annual literature review issue of the journal Water Environment Research and can be found at: <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/contentone/wef/wer/2017/000000089/00000010/art00033>.

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RECOGNITION

Secretary of the Ecological Society of America’s Policy Section. Caroline Ridley has been elected Secretary of the Ecological Society of America’s Policy Section. Her tenure will run from October 2017- October 2018.

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